

1 CLAIMS

2  
3 What is claimed is:

4  
5 *Sub* 1. A method comprising:  
6 *Cont* automatically selecting a candidate program to record;  
7 recording content associated with the selected candidate program; and  
8 selectively identifying the recorded content within a time-dependent buffer  
9 arrangement.

10  
11 2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein automatically selecting  
12 the candidate program further includes:  
13 scanning an electronic program guide (EPG) based on definable user  
14 selection criteria to identify the candidate program; and  
15 identifying the selected candidate program within the time-dependent  
16 buffer arrangement.

17  
18 3. The method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising:  
19 maintaining definable user selection criteria for each one of a plurality of  
20 users.

21  
22 4. The method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising:  
23 monitoring user activities associated with the recorded content; and  
24 modifying the definable user selection criteria based on the monitored user  
25 activities.

007240-2405560

1  
2 5. The method as recited in Claim 2, further comprising:  
3 recording a plurality of the recorded content within the time-dependent  
4 buffer arrangement, wherein the plurality of the recorded content is in an initial  
5 time-ordered sequence; and  
6 selectively rearranging the initial time-ordered sequence of the plurality of  
7 the recorded content to produce a modified time-ordered sequence within the time-  
8 dependent buffer arrangement.

9  
10 6. The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein the initial time-ordered  
11 sequence is automatically rearranged based on a comparison of the content with at  
12 least a portion of the definable user selection criteria.

13  
14 7. The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein the initial time-ordered  
15 sequence is manually rearranged based on user inputs.

16  
17 8. The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:  
18 selectively identifying the recorded content within the time-dependent  
19 buffer arrangement with a permanent storage buffer arrangement.

20  
21 9. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable  
22 instructions for performing steps comprising:  
23 automatically selecting a candidate program to record;  
24 recording content associated with the selected candidate program; and  
25

1 selectively identifying the recorded content within a time-dependent buffer  
2 arrangement.

3  
4 10. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9, wherein  
5 automatically selecting the candidate program further includes:

6 scanning an electronic program guide (EPG) based on definable user  
7 selection criteria to identify the candidate program; and  
8 identifying the selected candidate program within the time-dependent  
9 buffer arrangement.

10  
11 11. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10, further  
12 comprising computer-executable instructions for:

13 maintaining definable user selection criteria for each one of a plurality of  
14 users.

15  
16 12. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10, further  
17 comprising computer-executable instructions for:

18 monitoring user activities associated with the recorded content; and  
19 modifying the definable user selection criteria based on the monitored user  
20 activities.

1 13. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10, further  
2 comprising computer-executable instructions for:

3 recording a plurality of the recorded content within the time-dependent  
4 buffer arrangement, wherein the plurality of the recorded content is in an initial  
5 time-ordered sequence; and

6 selectively rearranging the initial time-ordered sequence of the plurality of  
7 the recorded content to produce a modified time-ordered sequence within the time-  
8 dependent buffer arrangement.

9  
10 14. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the  
11 initial time-ordered sequence is automatically rearranged based on a comparison  
12 of the content with at least a portion of the definable user selection criteria.

13  
14 15. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the  
15 initial time-ordered sequence is manually rearranged based on user inputs.

16  
17 16. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9, further  
18 comprising computer-executable instructions for:

19 selectively identifying the recorded content within the time-dependent  
20 buffer arrangement with a permanent storage buffer arrangement.

21  
22 17. An arrangement comprising:  
23 an intelligent content agent configured to automatically select a candidate  
24 program to record;

25

1 a time-dependent content buffer mechanism operatively coupled to the  
2 intelligent content agent and configurable to receive and record a signal carrying  
3 content associated with the selected candidate program.

4  
5 18. The arrangement as recited in Claim 17, wherein the intelligent  
6 content agent is further configured to scan an electronic program guide (EPG)  
7 based on definable user selection criteria to identify the candidate program, and  
8 identify the selected candidate program within the time-dependent buffer  
9 arrangement.

10  
11 19. The arrangement as recited in Claim 18, wherein the intelligent  
12 content agent is further configured to maintain definable user selection criteria for  
13 each one of a plurality of users.

14  
15 20. The arrangement as recited in Claim 18, further comprising a  
16 bubbling agent operatively associated with the intelligent content agent and the  
17 time-dependent content buffer mechanism, and configured to monitor user  
18 activities associated with the recorded content, and modify the definable user  
19 selection criteria based on the monitored user activities.

1 21. The arrangement as recited in Claim 18, wherein the time-dependent  
2 content buffer mechanism is further configured to:

3 record, in an initial time-ordered sequence, a plurality of signals carrying  
4 content associated with a plurality of selected candidate programs; and  
5 respond to user input by selectively rearranging the initial time-ordered  
6 sequence to produce a modified time-ordered sequence.

7  
8 22. The arrangement as recited in Claim 18, wherein the time-dependent  
9 content buffer mechanism is further configured to:

10 record, in an initial time-ordered sequence, a plurality of signals carrying  
11 content associated with a plurality of selected candidate programs; and

12 wherein, the intelligent content agent is further configured to automatically  
13 rearrange the initial time-ordered sequence based on a comparison of the content  
14 with at least a portion of the definable user selection criteria.

15  
16 23. The arrangement as recited in Claim 17, further comprising a  
17 permanent storage buffer arrangement operatively associated with the time-  
18 dependent content buffer mechanism, and wherein the time-dependent content  
19 buffer mechanism is further configured to selectively move the recorded content  
20 within the time-dependent buffer arrangement to the permanent storage buffer  
21 arrangement.

22  
23 24. The arrangement as recited in Claim 17 wherein the intelligent  
24 content agent is further configured to examine closed caption data during  
25

1 recording of the candidate program to determine if the candidate program  
2 significantly matches a specific user criteria.

3  
4  
5 25. The arrangement as recited in Claim 17 wherein the time-dependent  
6 content buffer mechanism is further configured to automatically provide a  
7 selectively arranged sequence of recorded candidate programs.  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

ADD